

the nurse and the beginner. It would be well to add for the layman and high school student, for it is certainly elementary enough to be of real service.

H. R. O.

**The Collected Works of Christian Fenger.** Vol. I and II. 1840-1902. Saunders Company, Phila. 1912.

These two volumes include the English and Danish publications of Dr. Fenger. The latter are translated. One article alone, written during his residence in Cairo, is in French. The large range of topics covered testifies as to the wide interests of the great Danish-American surgeon. The papers on genito-urinary subjects are particularly valuable. Many surgical principles set forth on this as well as on other topics have since the time of publication been universally adopted. Not the least valuable is a most interesting autobiography telling of a career full of obstacles and opposition but through which, as these works testify, his love of progressive scientific medicine must have remained undiminished.

H. C. N.

**Practical Anatomy. A Guide to the Dissection of the Human Body.** By John C. Heisler, M. D., Professor of Anatomy in the Medico-Chirurgical College of Philadelphia, Pa. Pp., 790, with 366 illustrations, of which 225 are in color. Price, \$4.50.

This book is a treatise on dissection and gross anatomy from a topographical point of view. The author has included under the title Practical Anatomy, not only useful facts applicable to dissection and descriptive anatomy, but also those relating to medicine, surgery, and the various specialties,—the latter being what are preferably comprehended under the name of applied anatomy. The points of clinical interest are abundant and concisely presented.

In the preface the author gives his reasons for the character of the work and for the particular arrangement of the subject matter. A warning is given that the "work in no sense attempts to usurp the function of a text-book of descriptive anatomy."

The cadaver is divided into four "parts" and it logically follows that four chapters should be devoted to the consideration of the essential anatomical and practical facts. An introduction is set apart to the technic of dissection. The instructions given will be appreciated by the student who works on his own initiative. Seven photographic illustrations are given to elucidate the text.

In each chapter the regions of the part of the body under consideration are taken up in a rational succession and the details of each are presented in the order of dissection. An effort has been made to preserve the logical arrangement of the subject and it is expected that the order of the work will be varied in each individual case, according to the requirements and object in view. The presentation of the text matter permits freedom of choice on the part of the student.

It is recommended that before the dissection is undertaken a review be made of the salient characteristics of each bone involved in the region under contemplation. The bones are figured and properly lettered, and the areas of muscular attachment are indicated in color. A study of the surface anatomy—which includes surface form and landmarks—precedes the consideration of the dissection. Then follows, in the regular order of occurrence, the removal of the integument, superficial fascia, cleaning of the superficial vessels and nerves, deep fascia, finally the muscles and deep vessels and nerves. For each muscle the essential facts of origin, insertion, nerve-supply and action are considered. An analogous treatment is accorded the main arteries and veins; the important anastomoses formed by them receive attention. The

most common variations are briefly mentioned. The joints, ligaments, bursae and synovial sheaths, lymphatics and the areas drained by them, receive the attention which their importance demands.

The practical importance of each anatomical fact has been interpolated at the proper time and place. Therefore, any point of special clinical interest is mentioned in connection with the structure under consideration. In order that "the beginner may not be unduly distracted, however, by an over-abundance of such references, they have been set apart from the body of the text by presentation in smaller type." It is the opinion of the reviewer that this segregation will all the more strongly fix the attention of the student upon the facts presented.

The figures have for the most part been made from the author's dissections or under his direct supervision. Many of them lack distinctness and the relationship of the structures are obscured by the colors not having fallen into their proper places. A few of the figures are disappointing as to correctness. In figure 24 the medial anterior thoracic nerve should have been indicated so as to have been compared with the lateral anterior thoracic.

In figure 27 the lateral cutaneous branch or intercostobrachial nerve from the third intercostal nerve is made to pass beneath the subscapular artery. This same relation is shown in figure 1093 of Piercel's Anatomy. Most text-books are obscure on the relationship of this nerve. Figure 67 of Woolsey's Applied Surgical Anatomy gives the relations of the intercostobrachial nerves correctly and as observed by the reviewer in his dissections and class work. A very obvious error is committed in figure 81, where the posterior cutaneous nerve of the thigh (small sciatic) is represented as lying superficial to the fascia lata in the upper and posterior part of the thigh. Again, in figure 163 the parotid duct is lettered as the buccal nerve, at least from the large size and position of the structure it is considered that an error has been permitted to go uncorrected. The genito-femoral nerve is colored red in figure 297.

It is true that an author finds it difficult to keep a work of the present character within desirable limits without omitting some important facts in the abridgment. Some omissions are less pardonable than others; an instance may be cited. On page 631, where the peritoneum is traced in a sagittal section of the body, no mention is made of its relation to the vagina. It would have been much better to have stated that the peritoneum is reflected from the anterior surface of the rectum onto the upper and posterior fourth of that organ, before attaining the posterior surface of the uterus. At this particular time such an omission is apt to lead the student into error. The correct relations are given on page 711.

Although the Basle Anatomical Nomenclature has not been adopted in its entirety, it is very gratifying to find the "BNA terms used directly in many cases," and the only regret is, that they have not been more extensively adopted; especially for such structures as the axillary, radial, and femoral nerves, etc., and the old terms circumflex, musculo-spiral, and anterior crural nerves, etc., given in parentheses. In the interest of advancement this should have been done. All progressive and up to date students or physicians would have accepted the new order of things, and the book itself would have a greater value in teaching.

The typography is excellent. The subheadings are given in heavy black-faced type, so that they are recognizable at a glance. The publishers deserve credit for the neatness of the book and for the elimination of typographical errors, for none of any moment have been noted except those pertaining to the figures.

The book in its logical arrangement and concise statement of facts should find a useful place within the sphere for which the author intended it.

F. E. B.